

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3201

COMMITTEES:  
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September 17, 2003

The Honorable Ben Nighthorse Campbell  
Chairman  
Committee on Indian Affairs  
838 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

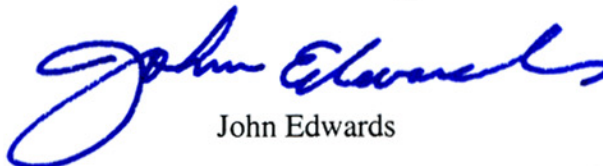
Dear Mr. Chairman:

Today is a historic day for hundreds of Lumbees. Today, more than a century after the State of North Carolina formally recognized the Lumbees, tribal members will finally be able to tell your committee their history and why they deserve no less than full federal recognition.

The Lumbees are a vibrant part of North Carolina's history. Lumbees, formally known as Croatan, are descendents of Cheraw and related Siouan-speaking Indians who have lived in the area of what is now Robeson County since the 1700s. They have served their country with distinction dating back to the Revolution. As you know, in 1956, Congress passed legislation to recognize the Lumbees, but the measure denied the Tribe the benefits associated with federal recognition. It is time to right that injustice.

I am proud to add my support to the bipartisan coalition of North Carolina's officials committed to ensuring the Lumbees receive the recognition they deserve. I appreciate your scheduling this hearing and I look forward to continuing this dialogue.

Yours sincerely,



John Edwards

JRE/lmg